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PUBLIC NOTICE

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL TRIP LIMITS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2003

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces trip and bag limits for January and February 2003 in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California, effective at 0001 hours (local time) January 1 until 2359 hours (local time) February 28, 2003. These management measures were recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council); the states of Washington, Oregon, and California will implement similar restrictions. Management measures for January 1 - February 28 are implemented via an emergency rule which will be published in the Federal Register on January 7. Also on January 7, NMFS will publish a proposed rule to implement specifications and management measures for March - December 2003. The proposed rule will be open for public comment until February 7. Both rules will be available after January 7 on the NMFS Northwest Region groundfish website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfsh/groundfish/gfregs.htm>, or through the contact names above. Any discrepancies between this public notice and the Federal Register will be resolved in favor of the Federal Register.

New for 2003, the commercial and recreational groundfish fishery will be managed using depth-based management measures, with large closed areas intended to prevent vessels from operating in waters where overfished species are commonly found (see "Commercial Fishery: Time and Area Closures" and the "Recreational Fishery" section below). Similar to 2002, the commercial groundfish fishery will be managed with separate landing limits for limited entry trawl vessels, limited entry fixed gear (longline and pot) vessels, and open access vessels. Also similar to 2002, limited entry trawl vessels authorized to operate in the "B" platoon may not take, retain, possess or land groundfish during January 1 - 15, 2003, and all "B" platoon limits will lag two weeks behind the "A" platoon limits (16th of the month to 15th of the month). The open access fishery includes all groundfish gear except for pot or longline gear fished by a vessel that has a limited entry permit endorsed for that gear, or groundfish trawl. Although groundfish trawl is not legal gear in the open access fishery, groundfish may be taken by shrimp, prawn, California halibut, or sea cucumber trawl gear under certain conditions. These non-groundfish trawl gear are considered exempted trawl gear, and have separate landing limits for some groundfish species from the rest of the open access fishery (see "Commercial Fishery: Non-groundfish Exempted Trawl Gear" below). Additionally, new recreational fisheries limits are introduced for 2003 (see "Recreational Fisheries" below).

Commercial Fishery

Trip Limit Tables

The trip limit tables for 2003 are structured slightly differently than in previous years. Each trip limit table (Limited Entry Trawl, Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access) is separated into a North and South table. For instance, there is Table 3 (North) for limited entry trawl trip limits north of 40°10' N. lat. to the US/Canada border and Table 3 (South) for limited entry trawl trip limits south of 40°10' N. lat. to the US/Mexico border. At the top of each table, the depth-based management restrictions for the appropriate gear type and area are included. Another change to the 2003 open access trip limit tables (Table 5 (North) and Table 5 (South)) is the inclusion of non-groundfish exempted trawl trip limits in the tables.

Time and Area Closures, including depth-based management

There are several closed times and areas described in the trip limit tables below. “Closure” when referring to closure of a fishery, means that taking and retaining, possessing, or landing that particular species or species group is prohibited. (See also 50 CFR 660.302.) Offloading must begin before the time the fishery closes.

Depth-based management, a type of area closure, was first introduced on September 13, 2002 (67 FR 57973), with an emergency rule that closed trawling in the months of September-December 2002 in waters north of 40°10' N. lat. (approximately at Cape Mendocino) at depths where darkblotched rockfish commonly occurs (between approximately 100 - 250 fathoms). For 2003, depth-based management measures have been expanded to all gears and sectors of the groundfish fishery, including the recreational sector. Many of the 2003 closed areas and boundary lines are generally described using a fathom contour line. These lines were previously announced in a NMFS public notice dated December 17, 2002 (available on our website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1press/sfdpress.htm> or by calling the contact names at the top of this public notice) and will be published on January 7 in the Emergency Rule on the Federal Register. Due to the length of the coordinates, they are not reprinted in this document.

All of these lines, except the 20 fm (37 m) contour off California south of 40°10' N. lat. and the 3-nautical mile State management line off California, are specifically defined in the emergency rule regulations at IV.A.(19), using latitude/longitude coordinates. These coordinates provide straight-line boundaries that approximate the depth-contours to provide clarity to the closed area boundaries for enforcement purposes. To ensure that consistent nomenclature is used coastwide, an area closed to fishing for groundfish will be referred to as a “Groundfish Conservation Area” in general, regardless of whether the boundaries of that area change during the year. The Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCA) are defined by coordinates that are fixed throughout the year (coordinates provided below in this section and in the “Recreational Fishery” section). Coordinates defining the CCAs have changed modestly in 2003 to ensure that the CCAs comply with depth-based closures for waters off southern California. The larger, gear or sector-specific closed areas described by depth contour boundaries for the 2003 fishing year will be referred to as “Rockfish Conservation Areas,” or RCAs. For example, there is both a trawl RCA and a non-trawl RCA north of 40°10' N. lat. Boundaries for the RCAs will be referred to as either the “inshore boundary,” meaning the RCA boundary or borderline that is closest to shore, or the “offshore boundary,” meaning the RCA boundary or borderline that is farthest offshore.

At its September 2002 meeting, the Council adopted the State of California’s recommendation to create a California Rockfish Conservation Area (CRCA) in waters south of 40°10' N. lat. for 2003. The RCA

encompasses the CRCA. Therefore, to ensure consistent coastwide nomenclature, this area will be referred to as an RCA in Federal regulations. NMFS anticipates that the Council and the State of California may continue to refer to the CRCA in management discussions. This RCA south of 40°10' N. lat. is an area of restricted or no fishing intended to protect overfished rockfish species. This restricted area covers ocean waters of 20-250 fm (37-457 m) depth between 40°10' N. lat. and 38°00' N. lat. and waters of 20-150 fm (37-274 m) depth between 38°00' N. lat. and the US/Mexico border. Several of the restrictions within the RCA affect only State-managed species and will be implemented through State regulations.

Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA) Coordinates -

(1) The Western CCA is an area south of Point Conception that is bound by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order listed:

33°50' N. lat., 119°30' W. long.;
33°50' N. lat., 118°50' W. long.;
32°20' N. lat., 118°50' W. long.;
32°20' N. lat., 119°37' W. long.;
33°00' N. lat., 119°37' W. long.;
33°00' N. lat., 119°53' W. long.;
33°33' N. lat., 119°53' W. long.;
33°33' N. lat., 119°30' W. long.;
and connecting back to 33°50' N. lat., 119°30' W. long.

(2) The Eastern CCA is a smaller area west of San Diego that is bound by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order listed:

32°42' N. lat., 118°02' W. long.;
32°42' N. lat., 117°50' W. long.;
32°36'42" N. lat., 117°50' W. long.;
32°30' N. lat., 117°53'30" W. long.;
32°30' N. lat., 118°02' W. long.;
and connecting back to 32°42' N. lat., 118°02' W. long.

Minor Rockfish

Minor rockfish are those species without species-specific limits. Minor rockfish species are divided into three separate landing limit groups: nearshore, shelf, and slope. The rockfish species in each species group are listed in the table titled "Minor Rockfish Species" below. Although darkblotched rockfish landings are included in minor slope rockfish limits and yelloweye rockfish landings are included in minor shelf rockfish limits, darkblotched and yelloweye rockfish must be sorted separately from other rockfish (minor slope or shelf) species.

Fishing in areas with Different Landing Limits for the Same Species

Landings limits for a species or species complex may differ with geographic areas along the coast. The following "crossover" provisions apply to all vessels (limited entry and open access) operating in different geographic areas that have different cumulative or "per trip" limits for the same species, except for species subject only to daily trip limits coastwide and trip limits for black rockfish off Washington State.

If a vessel takes and retains any groundfish species or species group of groundfish in an area where a more restrictive trip limit applies, before fishing in an area where a more liberal trip limit (or no trip

limit) applies, then that vessel is subject to the more restrictive trip limit for the entire period to which that trip limit applies, no matter where the fish are taken and retained, possessed, or landed. If a vessel takes and retains a groundfish species or species group in an area where a higher trip limit (or no trip limit applies) and takes and retains, possess or lands the same species or species group in an area where a more restrictive trip limit applies, then that vessel is subject to the more restrictive trip limit for the entire period to which that trip limit applies, no matter where the fish are taken and retained, possessed, or landed. Vessels operating in the limited entry trawl fishery are subject to these crossover provisions when making landings that include any one of the four species in the “DTS complex.” (See limited entry trawl trip limit tables below.) There are several rockfish species (splitnose, chilipepper, bocaccio, yellowtail, POP, yelloweye) that are part of a minor rockfish group in one management area, but which have species-specific limits in another management area. Landings of those species are included in the minor rockfish species group when those landings are made in the area where the species is considered a minor rockfish.

Types of Limited Entry Trawl Gear

The limited entry trawl trip limit tables below, Table 3 (North) and Table 3 (South), describe limits for three different types of limited entry trawl gear (large footrope gear, small footrope gear, and midwater gear). Large footrope trawl gear is bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter larger than 8 inches (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope). Small footrope trawl gear is bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter 8 inches or smaller (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope). Chafing gear may be used only on the last 50 meshes of a small footrope trawl, measured from the terminal (closed) end of the codend. Other lines or ropes that run parallel to the footrope may not be augmented or modified to violate footrope size restrictions. The presence of rollers or bobbins larger than 8 inches in diameter on board the vessel, even if not attached to a trawl, will be considered to mean a large footrope is on board. Midwater trawl gear is pelagic trawl gear. The footrope of midwater trawl gear may not be enlarged or weighted by encircling it with chains or by any other means. Ropes or lines running parallel to the footrope of midwater trawl gear must be bare and may not be suspended with chains or other materials. It is legal to have more than one type of limited entry trawl gear on board, but the most restrictive trip limit associated with the gear on board will apply for that trip, and will count toward the cumulative trip limit for that gear.

Non-groundfish Exempted Trawl Gear (open access)

For 2003, the trip limits for groundfish taken with exempted trawl gear by vessels engaged in fishing for pink shrimp, spot and ridgeback prawns, California halibut, or sea cucumbers are included at the bottom of the open access trip limit tables, Table 5 (North) and Table 5 (South) (see below). In addition to the groundfish trip limits for exempted trawl fisheries at the bottom of the open access tables, the other trip limits in the open access tables also apply. A vessel that takes and retains pink shrimp and also takes and retains groundfish in either the limited entry or open access fishery during the same applicable cumulative limit period that it takes and retains pink shrimp (which may be 1 month or 2 months, depending on the fishery and the time of year), may retain the larger of the 2 limits, but only if the limit(s) for each gear or fishery are not exceeded when operating in that fishery or with that gear. The limits are not additive; the vessel may not retain a separate trip limit for each fishery.

Minor Rockfish Species (excludes thornyheads)

North of 40°10' N. lat.

South of 40°10' N. lat.

NEARSHORE

black, *Sebastes melanops*
black and yellow, *S. chrysomelas*
blue, *S. mystinus*
brown, *S. auriculatus*
calico, *S. dalli*
China, *S. nebulosus*
copper, *S. caurinus*
gopher, *S. carnatus*
grass, *S. rastrelliger*
kelp, *S. atrovirens*
olive, *S. serranoides*
quillback, *S. maliger*
treefish, *S. serriceps*

black, *Sebastes melanops*
black and yellow, *S. chrysomelas*
blue, *S. mystinus*
brown, *S. auriculatus*
calico, *S. dalli*
California scorpionfish, *Scorpaena guttata*
China, *Sebastes nebulosus*
copper, *S. caurinus*
gopher, *S. carnatus*
grass, *S. rastrelliger*
kelp, *S. atrovirens*
olive, *S. serranoides*
quillback, *S. maliger*
treefish, *S. serriceps*

SHELF

bronzespotted, *S. gilli*
bocaccio, *S. paucispinis*
chameleon, *S. phillipsi*
chilipepper, *S. goodei*
cowcod, *S. levis*
dwarf-red, *S. rufianus*
flag, *S. rubrivinctus*
freckled, *S. lentiginosus*
greenblotched, *S. rosenblatti*
greenspotted, *S. chlorostictus*
greenstriped, *S. elongatus*
halfbanded, *S. semicinctus*
honeycomb, *S. umbrosus*
Mexican, *S. macdonaldi*
pink, *S. eos*
pinkrose, *S. simulator*
pygmy, *S. wilsoni*
redstriped, *S. proriger*
rosethorn, *S. helvomaculatus*
rosy, *S. rosaceus*
silverygrey, *S. brevispinis*
speckled, *S. ovalis*
squarespot, *S. hopkinsi*
starry, *S. constellatus*
stripetail, *S. saxicola*
swordspine, *S. ensifer*
tiger, *S. nigorcinctus*
vermilion, *S. miniatus*
yelloweye, *S. ruberrimus*

bronzespotted, *S. gilli*
chameleon, *S. phillipsi*
dwarf-red, *S. rufianus*
flag, *S. rubrivinctus*
freckled, *S. lentiginosus*
greenblotched, *S. rosenblatti*
greenspotted, *S. chlorostictus*
greenstriped, *S. elongatus*
halfbanded, *S. semicinctus*
honeycomb, *S. umbrosus*
Mexican, *S. macdonaldi*
pink, *S. eos*
pinkrose, *S. simulator*
pygmy, *S. wilsoni*
redstriped, *S. proriger*
rosethorn, *S. helvomaculatus*
rosy, *S. rosaceus*
silverygrey, *S. brevispinis*
speckled, *S. ovalis*
squarespot, *S. hopkinsi*
starry, *S. constellatus*
stripetail, *S. saxicola*
swordspine, *S. ensifer*
tiger, *S. nigorcinctus*
vermilion, *S. miniatus*
yelloweye, *S. ruberrimus*
yellowtail, *S. flavidus*

SLOPE

aurora, *S. aurora*
bank, *S. rufus*
blackgill, *S. melanostomus*
darkblotched, *S. crameri*
redbanded, *S. babcocki*
rougheye, *S. aleutianus*
sharpchin, *S. zacentrus*
shortraker, *S. borealis*
splitnose, *S. diploproa*
yellowmouth, *S. reedi*

aurora, *S. aurora*
bank, *S. rufus*
blackgill, *S. melanostomus*
darkblotched, *S. crameri*
Pacific ocean perch (POP), *S. alutus*
redbanded, *S. babcocki*
rougheye, *S. aleutianus*
sharpchin, *S. zacentrus*
shortraker, *S. borealis*
yellowmouth, *S. reedi*

Table 3 (North). Trip Limits and Gear Requirements^{1/} for Limited Entry Trawl Gear North of 40°10' N. Latitude^{2/}

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections A. and B. of NMFS Actions before using this table

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area ^{10/} (RCA):	100 fm - 250 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)	100 fm - 250 fm		75 fm - 250 fm	100 fm - 250 fm	100 fm - 250 fm (line modified to incorporate petrale sole fishing grounds)
Small footrope is required shoreward of the RCA; both large and small footropes are permitted seaward of the RCA. Only one type of trawl gear is allowed on board a vessel at any one time.						
1 Minor slope rockfish ^{3/}	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
2 Pacific ocean perch	3,000 lb/ 2 months					
3 DTS complex						
4 Sablefish	6,000 lb/ 2 months		7,000 lb/ 2 months			6,000 lb/ 2 months
5 Longspine thornyhead	8,000 lb/ 2 months	9,000 lb/ 2 months				7,000 lb/ 2 months
6 Shortspine thornyhead	2,300 lb/ 2 months	2,400 lb/ 2 months				2,200 lb/ 2 months
7 Dover sole	26,000 lb/ 2 months		25,000 lb/ 2 months			26,000 lb/ 2 months
8 Flatfish						
9 All other flatfish ^{4/}	100,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 30,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole				100,000 lb/ 2 months
10 Petrale sole	Not limited					Not limited
11 Rex sole	Included in all other flatfish					
12 Arrowtooth flounder	30,000 lb/ trip	60,000 lb/ 2 months; 7,500 lb/ trip				30,000 lb/ trip
13 Whiting ^{5/}						
14 mid-water trawl - permitted within the RCA	20,000 lb/ trip		Primary Season		10,000 lb/ trip	
15 Other Fish ^{6/}	Not limited					
16 Use of small footrope bottom trawl ^{7/} or mid-water trawl is required for landing all of the following species:						
17 Minor shelf rockfish and widow rockfish ^{3/}	300 lb/ month		1,000 lb/ month, no more than 200 lb/ month of which may be yelloweye rockfish			300 lb/ month
18 Widow rockfish - mid-water trawl						
19 mid-water trawl - permitted within the RCA	CLOSED ^{6/}		During primary whiting season, in trips of at least 10,000 lb of whiting: combined widow and yellowtail limit of 500 lb/ trip; cumulative widow limit of 1,500 lb/ month		CLOSED ^{6/}	12,000 lb/ 2 months
20 Canary rockfish	100 lb/ month		300 lb/ month		100 lb/ month	
21 Yellowtail						
22 mid-water trawl - permitted within the RCA	CLOSED ^{6/}		During primary whiting season, in trips of at least 10,000 lb of whiting: combined widow and yellowtail limit of 500 lb/ trip; cumulative yellowtail limit of 2,000 lb/ month			18,000 lb/ 2 months
23 small footrope trawl ^{7/}	In landings without flatfish, 1,000 lb/ month. As flatfish bycatch, per trip limit is the sum of 33% (by weight) of all flatfish except arrowtooth flounder, plus 10% (by weight) of arrowtooth flounder. Combined with and without flatfish, not to exceed 3,000 lb/ month					
24 Minor nearshore rockfish	300 lb/ month					
25 Lingcod ^{8/}	800 lb/ 2 months		1,000 lb/ 2 months		800 lb/ 2 months	

1/ Gear requirements and prohibitions are explained above. See A.(14).

2/ "North" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Canada border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

3/ Bocaccio and chilipepper are included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

4/ "Other" flatfish means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 3 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

5/ The whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area shoreward of 100 fm is 10,000 lb/ trip throughout the year. Outside Eureka area, the 20,000 lb/ trip limit applies. See B.(3).

6/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See A.(7).

7/ Small footrope trawl means a bottom trawl net with a footrope no larger than 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter.

8/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

9/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

10/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat/long coordinates set out at A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 3 (South). Trip Limits and Gear Requirements^{1/} for Limited Entry Trawl Gear South of 40°10' N. Latitude^{2/}
Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections A. and B. of NMFS Actions before using this table

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area^{10/} (RCA):						
40°10' - 38° N. lat.	50 fm - 250 fm	60 fm - 250 fm				
38° - 34°27' N. lat.	50 fm - 150 fm	60 fm - 150 fm				
South of 34°27' N. lat.	100 fm - 150 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm around islands					
Small footrope is required shoreward of the RCA; both large and small footropes are permitted seaward of the RCA. Only one type of trawl gear is allowed on board a vessel at any one time.						
1 Minor slope rockfish^{3/}						
2 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
3 South of 38° N. lat.	30,000 lb/ 2 months					
4 Splitnose						
5 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
6 South of 38° N. lat.	30,000 lb/ 2 months					
7 DTS complex						
8 Sablefish	6,000 lb/ 2 months	7,000 lb/ 2 months				6000 lb/ 2 months
9 Longspine thornyhead	8,000 lb /2 months	9,000 lb/ 2 months				7000 lb/ 2 months
10 Shortspine thornyhead	2,300 lb/ 2 months	2,400 lb/ 2 months				2,200 lb/ 2 months
11 Dover sole	26,000 lb/ 2 months	25,000 lb/ 2 months				26,000 lb/ 2 months
12 Flatfish						
13 All other flatfish ^{4/}	70,000 lb/ 2 months	70,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 10,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole				70,000 lb/ 2 months
14 Petrale sole	No limit					No limit
15 Rex sole	Included in all other flatfish					
16 Arrowtooth flounder	No limit	1,000 lb/ 2 months				No limit
17 Whiting^{5/}						
18 mid water trawl - permitted within the RCA	20,000 lb/ trip	Primary Season			10,000 lb/ trip	
19 Other Fish^{9/}	Not limited					
20 Use of small footrope bottom trawl^{7/} or mid-water trawl is required for landing all of the following species:						
21 Minor shelf rockfish, widow, and chilipepper rockfish^{3/}	300 lb/ month					
22 Widow rockfish						
23 mid water trawl - permitted within the RCA	CLOSED ^{6/}					12, 000 lb/ 2 months
24 Canary rockfish	100 lb/ month	300 lb/ month			100 lb/ month	
25 Bocaccio	CLOSED ^{6/}					
26 Cowcod	CLOSED ^{6/}					
27 Minor nearshore rockfish	300 lb/ month					
28 Lingcod^{8/}	800 lb/ 2 months	1,000 lb/ 2 months			800 lb/ 2 months	

1/ Gear requirements and prohibitions are explained above. See A.(14).

2/ "South" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Mexico border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

3/ Yellowtail is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

4/ "Other" flatfish means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 3 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

5/ The whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area shoreward of 100 fm is 10,000 lb/ trip throughout the year. Outside Eureka area, the 20,000 lb/ trip limit applies. See B.(3).

6/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See A.(7).

7/ Small footrope trawl means a bottom trawl net with a footrope no larger than 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter.

8/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

9/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

10/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat./long. coordinates set out at A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 4 (North). Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N. Latitude^{1/}

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections A. and B. of NMFS Actions before using this table

Other Limits and Requirements Apply – Read Sections A and B of NMFS Actions before using this table						
	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area^{8/} (RCA):						
North of 46°16' N. lat.	shoreline - 100 fm					
46°16' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	27 fm - 100 fm					
South of 40°10' N. lat.	20 fm - 150 fm					
1 Minor slope rockfish	1,800 lb/ 2 months	No more than 25% of the weight of sablefish landed/ trip				1,800 lb/ 2 months
2 Splitnose	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
3 Pacific ocean perch	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
4 Sablefish	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months					
5 Longspine thornyhead	9,000 lb/ 2 months					
6 Shortspine thornyhead	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
7 Dover sole	5,000 lb/ month					
8 Arrowtooth flounder						
9 Petrale sole						
10 Rex sole						
11 All other flatfish^{2/}						
12 Whiting^{3/}	10,000 lb/ trip					
13 Minor shelf rockfish, widow, and yellowtail rockfish^{4/}	200 lb/ month					
14 Canary rockfish	CLOSED ^{5/}					
15 Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED ^{5/}					
16 Cowcod	CLOSED ^{5/}					
17 Minor nearshore rockfish	3,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 900 lb of which may be species other than black or blue rockfish ^{6/}					
18 Lingcod^{7/}	CLOSED ^{5/}		400 lb/ month			CLOSED ^{5/}

1/ "North" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Canada border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

2/ "Other flatfish" means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 4 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

3/ TThe whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area shoreward of 100 fm is 10,000 lb/ trip throughout the year. Outside Eureka area, the 20,000 lb/ trip limit applies. See B.(3).

4/ Bocaccio and chilipepper are included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish.

5/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See A.(7).

6/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09'30" N. lat.), and between Destruction Island (47°40'00" N. lat.) and Leadbetter Point (46°38'10" N. lat.),

there is an additional limit of 100 lb or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

7/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

8/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat./long. coordinates set out at A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 4 (South). Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N. Latitude^{1/}

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections A. and B. of NMFS Actions before using this table

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections A. and B. of NMFS Actions before using this table						
	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area ^{7/} (RCA):	20 fm - 150 fm			20 fm - 150 fm -- Between a line drawn due south from Point Fermin (33° 42' 30" N. lat.; 118° 17' 30" W. long.) and a line drawn due west from the Newport South Jetty (33° 35' 37" N .lat.; 117° 52' 50" W. long.,) vessels fishing with hook&line and/or trap (or pot) gear may operate from shore to a boundary line approximating 50 fm	20 fm - 150 fm	
1 Minor slope rockfish ^{4/}						
2 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	1,800 lb/ 2 months	No more than 25% of weight of sablefish landed/ trip				1,800 lb/ 2 months
3 South of 38° N. lat.	30,000 lb/ 2 months					
4 Splitnose						
5 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
6 South of 38° N. lat.	20,000 lb/ 2 months					
7 Sablefish						
8 40°10' - 36° N. lat.	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months					
9 South of 36° N. lat.	350 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,050 lb					
10 Longspine thornyhead	9,000 lb/ 2 months					
11 Shortspine thornyhead	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
12 Dover sole	5,000 lb/ month When fishing for Pacific sanddabs, vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 5 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank, and up to 5 lb (2.27 kg) of weight per line are not subject to the RCAs.					
13 Arrowtooth flounder						
14 Petrale sole						
15 Rex sole						
16 All other flatfish ^{2/}						
17 Whiting ^{3/}	10,000 lb/ trip					
18 Minor shelf rockfish, widow, and yellowtail rockfish ^{4/}	100 lb/ 2 month	CLOSED ^{5/}	200 lb/ 2 months	250 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months	100 lb/ 2 months
19 Canary rockfish	CLOSED ^{5/}					
20 Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED ^{5/}					
21 Cowcod	CLOSED ^{5/}					
22 Bocaccio	CLOSED ^{5/}					
23 Minor nearshore rockfish						
24 Shallow nearshore	200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED ^{5/}	400 lb/ 2 months	500 lb/ 2 months	400 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
25 Deep nearshore	200 lb/ 2 months		200 lb/ 2 months	400 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
26 California scorpionfish	CLOSED ^{5/}		800 lb/ 2 months		CLOSED ^{5/}	
27 Lingcod ^{6/}	CLOSED ^{5/}		400 lb/ month, when nearshore open			CLOSED ^{5/}

1/ "South" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Mexico border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

2/ "Other flatfish" means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 4 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

3/ The whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area shoreward of 100 fm is 10,000 lb/ trip throughout the year. Outside Eureka area, the 20,000 lb/ trip limit applies. See B.(3).

4/ Chilipepper rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

5/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See A.(7).

6/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

7/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat/long coordinates set out at A.(19)(e) that may vary seasonally.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 5 (North). 2003 Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40°10' N. Latitude^{1/}

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections A. and C. NMFS Actions before using this table

Other Limits and Requirements Apply – Read Sections A and C. Min. 3 Actions Before Using This Table		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area^{8/} (RCA):							
North of 46°16' N. lat.		0 fm - 100 fm					
46°16' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.		27 fm - 100 fm					
1	Minor slope rockfish ^{2/}	Per trip, no more than 25% of weight of the sablefish landed					
2	Pacific ocean perch	100 lb/ month					
3	Sablefish	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months					
4	Thornyheads	CLOSED ^{5/}					
5	Dover sole	3,000 lb/month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.					
6	Arrowtooth flounder						
7	Petrale sole						
8	Rex sole						
9	All other flatfish ^{3/}						
10	Whiting	300 lb/ month					
11	Minor shelf rockfish, widow and yellowtail rockfish ^{2/}	200 lb/ month					
12	Canary rockfish	CLOSED ^{5/}					
13	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED ^{5/}					
14	Cowcod	CLOSED ^{5/}					
15	Minor nearshore rockfish	3,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 900 lb of which may be species other than black or blue rockfish ^{4/}					
16	Lingcod ^{6/}	CLOSED ^{5/}		300 lb/ month			CLOSED ^{5/}
17	Other Fish ^{7/}	Not limited					
18 PINK SHRIMP EXEMPTED TRAWL (not subject to RCAs)							
19	North	Effective April 1 - October 31, 2003: groundfish 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of these species count toward the per day and per trip groundfish limits and do not have species-specific limits. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.					
20 PRAWN EXEMPTED TRAWL (not subject to RCAs)							
21	North	Groundfish 300 lb/trip. Limits and closures in this table also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip.					

1/ "North" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Canada border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

2/ Bocaccio and chilipepper rockfishes are included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 5 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09'30" N. lat.), and between Destruction Island (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Point (46°38'10" N. lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lbs or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

5/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See A.(7).

6/ The size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

7/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

8/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours, but specifically defined by lat./long. coordinates set out at A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 5 (South). 2003 Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10' N. Latitude^{1/}

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections A. and C. of NMFS Actions before using this table

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read Sections A1 and C1 of NMFS Actions Before Using this Table						
	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area^{7/} (RCA):						
	20 fm - 150 fm			20 fm - 150 fm	20 fm - 150 fm	
South of 40°10' N. lat.	Between a line drawn due south from Point Fermin, CA (33° 42' 30" N. lat.; 118° 17' 30" W. long.) and a line drawn due west from the Newport South Jetty (33° 35' 37" N. lat.; 117° 52' 50" W. long.), vessels fishing with hook & line and/or trap (or pot) gear may operate from shore to a boundary line approximating 50 fm					
1 Minor slope rockfish ^{2/}						
2 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	Per trip, no more than 25% of weight of the sablefish landed					
3 South of 38° N. lat.	10,000 lb/ 2 months					
4 Splitnose	200 lb/ month					
5 Sablefish						
6 40°10' - 36° N. lat.	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months					
7 South of 36° N. lat.	350 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,050 lb					
8 Thornyheads						
9 40°10' - 34°27' N. lat.	CLOSED ^{5/}					
10 South of 34°27' N. lat.	50 lb/ day, no more than 2,000 lb/ 2 months					
11 Dover sole	3,000 lb/month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs. When fishing for Pacific sanddabs, vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 5 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank, and up to 5 lb (2.27 kg) of weight per line are not subject to the RCAs.					
12 Arrowtooth flounder						
13 Petrale sole						
14 Rex sole						
15 All other flatfish ^{3/}						
16 Whiting	300 lb/ month					
17 Minor shelf rockfish, widow and chilipepper rockfish ^{2/}	100 lb/ 2 month	CLOSED ^{5/}	200 lb/ 2 months	250 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months	100 lb/ 2 months
18 Canary rockfish	CLOSED ^{5/}					
19 Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED ^{5/}					
20 Cowcod	CLOSED ^{5/}					
21 Bocaccio	CLOSED ^{5/}					
22 Minor nearshore rockfish						
23 Shallow nearshore	200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED ^{5/}	400 lb/ 2 months	500 lb/ 2 months	400 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
24 Deep nearshore	200 lb/ 2 months		200 lb/ 2 months	400 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months	200 lb/ 2 months
25 California scorpionfish	CLOSED ^{5/}		800 lb/ 2 months		CLOSED ^{5/}	
26 Lingcod ^{4/}	CLOSED ^{5/}		300 lb/ month, when nearshore open			CLOSED ^{5/}
27 Other Fish ^{6/}	Not limited					
28 PINK SHRIMP EXEMPTED TRAWL GEAR (not subject to RCAs)						
29 South	Effective April 1 - October 31, 2003: Groundfish 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/ month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/ month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of these species count toward the per day and per trip groundfish limits and do not have species-specific limits. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.					
30 PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57'30" N. LAT., CALIFORNIA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER EXEMPTED TRAWL						
31	EXEMPTED TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area ^{8/} (RCA):					
32 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	50 fm - 250 fm	60 fm - 250 fm				
33 38° - 34°27' N. lat.	50 fm - 150 fm	60 fm - 150 fm				
34 South of 34°27' N. lat.	100 fm - 150 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm around islands					
35	Groundfish 300 lb/trip. Trip limits in this table also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and thornyheads south of Pt. Conception and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip.					

1/ "South" means 40°10' N. lat. to the U.S.-Mexico border. 40°10' N. lat. is about 20 nm south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

2/ Yellowtail rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish and POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" means all flatfish at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 5 with species specific management measures, including trip limits.

4/ The size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

5/ Closed means that it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated. See A.(7).

6/ Other fish are defined at 50 CFR 660.302, as those groundfish species or species groups for which there is no trip limit, size limit, quota, or harvest guideline.

7/ The "Rockfish Conservation Area" is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours, but specifically defined by lat./long. coordinates set out at A.(19)(e), that may vary seasonally.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Recreational Fishery

Washington Recreational Regulations

For each person engaged in recreational fishing off Washington, the groundfish bag limit is 15 groundfish, including rockfish and lingcod, and is open year-round (except for lingcod). The following sub-limits and closed areas apply:

Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) -

Recreational fishing for groundfish is prohibited within the YRCA. It is unlawful for recreational fishing vessels to take, retain, possess, or land groundfish inside the YRCA. The YRCA is a C-shaped area off the northern Washington coast that is bound by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order listed:

48°00' N. lat.; 124°59' W. long.;
48°00' N. lat.; 125°18' W. long.;
48°04' N. lat.; 124°59' W. long.;
48°04' N. lat.; 125°18' W. long.;
48°04' N. lat.; 125°11' W. long.;
48°04' N. lat.; 125°18' W. long.;
48°18' N. lat.; 125°11' W. long.;
48°18' N. lat.; 125°18' W. long.;
and connecting back to 48°00' N. lat.; 124°59' W. long.

Rockfish - In areas off Washington that are open to recreational groundfish fishing, there is a 10-rockfish per day bag limit, of which no more than 1 may be canary rockfish. Taking and retaining yelloweye rockfish is prohibited.

Lingcod - Recreational fishing for lingcod is closed from January 1 - February 28.

Oregon Recreational Regulations

The bag limits for each person engaged in recreational fishing off Oregon are 2 lingcod per day, which may be no smaller than 24 inches total length, and 10 marine fish per day, which excludes salmon, tuna, surfperch, sanddab, lingcod, and baitfish, but which includes rockfish and other groundfish. The minimum size limit for cabezon retained in the recreational fishery is 15 inches. Within the 10 marine fish bag limit, no more than 1 may be canary rockfish, no more than 1 may be yelloweye rockfish and when the all-depth recreational fisheries for Pacific halibut are open, the first Pacific halibut taken of 32 inches or greater in length may be retained. During the all-depth recreational fisheries for Pacific halibut, vessels with halibut on board may not take, retain, possess or land yelloweye rockfish or canary rockfish.

California Recreational Regulations

Off California (north and south of 40°10' N. lat.), in times and areas when the recreational fishery is open, there is a 20-fish bag limit for all species of finfish, within which no more than 10 fish of any one species may be taken or possessed by any one person. Retention of cowcod is prohibited in California's recreational fishery all year in all areas.

California North of 40°10' N. lat. For each person engaged in recreational fishing off California north of 40°10' N. lat., the following seasons, bag limits, and size limits apply:

RCG Complex -

The California rockfish, cabezon, greenling complex (RCG Complex), as defined in state regulation (Section 1.91, Title 14, California Code of Regulations), includes all rockfish, kelp greenling, rock greenling, and cabezon. This category does not include California scorpionfish, also known as “sculpin.”

Seasons. North of 40°10' N. lat., recreational fishing for the RCG Complex is open from January 1 through December 31.

Bag limits, boat limits, hook limits. North of 40°10' N. lat., the bag limit is 10 rockfish per day, of which no more than 2 may be bocaccio, 1 may be canary rockfish, and no more than 1 per day up to a maximum of two per boat may be yelloweye rockfish. The following daily bag limits also apply: no more than 10 cabezon per day and no more than 10 greenlings (kelp and/or rock greenlings) per day. Multi-day limits are authorized by a valid permit issued by California and must not exceed the daily limit multiplied by the number of days in the fishing trip.

Size limits. The following size limits apply: cabezon may be no smaller than 15 inches total length and kelp and rock greenling may be no smaller than 12 inches total length.

Dressing/filleting. Cabezon, kelp greenling, and rock greenling taken in the recreational fishery may not be filleted at sea. Rockfish skin may not be removed when filleting or otherwise dressing rockfish taken in the recreational fishery. “Brown-skinned” rockfish include the following species: brown, calico, copper, gopher, kelp, olive, speckled, squarespot, and yellowtail. “Brown-skinned” rockfish filets may be no smaller than 6.5 inches.

Lingcod -

Seasons. North of 40°10' N. lat., recreational fishing for lingcod is open from January 1 through December 31.

Bag limits, boat limits, hook limits. North of 40°10' N. lat., the bag limit is 2 lingcod per day. Multi-day limits are authorized only with valid permit issued by California and must not exceed the daily limit multiplied by the number of days in the fishing trip.

Size limits. Lingcod may be no smaller than 24 inches total length.

Dressing/fileting. Lingcod filets may be no smaller than 16 inches in length .

California South of 40°10' N. lat. For each person engaged in recreational fishing seaward of California south of 40°10' N. lat., the following seasons, bag limits, size limits and closed areas apply:

Closed Areas -

Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCAs). Coordinates defining the CCAs have changed modestly in 2003 to ensure that the CCAs comply with depth-based closures for waters off southern California. Recreational fishing for groundfish is prohibited within the CCAs (coordinates provided below), except that fishing for sanddabs is permitted subject to the provisions in the paragraph on sanddabs below and that fishing for species managed under this section (not including cowcod, bocaccio, canary, and yelloweye rockfishes) is permitted in waters shoreward of the 20-fm (37-m) depth contour within the CCAs from July 1 through December 31, 2003, subject to the bag limits in this section.

CCA Coordinates -

(1) The Western CCA is an area south of Point Conception that is bound by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order listed:

33°50' N. lat., 119°30' W. long.;

33°50' N. lat., 118°50' W. long.;

32°20' N. lat., 118°50' W. long.;

32°20' N. lat., 119°37' W. long.;

33°00' N. lat., 119°37' W. long.;

33°00' N. lat., 119°53' W. long.;

33°33' N. lat., 119°53' W. long.;

33°33' N. lat., 119°30' W. long.;

and connecting back to 33°50' N. lat., 119°30' W. long.

(2) The Eastern CCA is a smaller area west of San Diego that is bound by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order listed:

32°42' N. lat., 118°02' W. long.;

32°42' N. lat., 117°50' W. long.;

32°36'42" N. lat., 117°50' W. long.;

32°30' N. lat., 117°53'30" W. long.;

32°30' N. lat., 118°02' W. long.;

and connecting back to 32°42' N. lat., 118°02' W. long.

Depth-based Closure. South of 40°10' N. lat., recreational fishing for all groundfish, including lingcod, is prohibited seaward of the 20-fm (37-m) depth contour, except that recreational fishing for sanddabs is permitted seaward of the 20-fm (37-m) depth contour subject to the provisions in paragraph the paragraph on sanddabs below.

RCG Complex-

The California rockfish, cabezon, greenling complex (RCG Complex), as defined in state regulations (Section 1.91, Title 14, California Code of Regulations), includes all rockfish, kelp greenling, rock greenling, and cabezon. This category does not include California scorpionfish, also known as "sculpin."

Seasons. South of 40°10' N. lat., recreational fishing for the RCG Complex is open from July 1 through December 31 (closed from January 1 through June 30). When recreational fishing for the RCG Complex is open, it is permitted only inside the 20-fm (37-m) depth contour.

Bag limits, boat limits, hook limits. South of 40°10' N. lat., in times and areas when the recreational season for the RCG Complex is open, there is a limit of 2-hooks and one line when fishing for rockfish, and the bag limit is 10 RCG Complex fish per day, of which up to 10 may be rockfish, no more than 2 of which may be shallow nearshore rockfish. [Note: The shallow nearshore rockfish group off California are composed of kelp, grass, black-and-yellow, China, and gopher rockfishes.] Also within the 10 RCG Complex fish per day limit, no more than 2 groundfish per day may be greenlings (kelp and/or rock greenlings) and no more than 3 groundfish per day may be cabezon. Lingcod, California scorpionfish, and sanddabs taken in recreational fisheries off California do not count toward the 10 RCG Complex fish per day bag limit. Multi-day limits are authorized by a valid permit issued by California and must not exceed the daily limit multiplied by the number of days in the fishing trip.

Size limits. The following size limits apply: cabezon may be no smaller than 15 inches and kelp and rock greenling may be no smaller than 12 inches.

Dressing/filleting. Cabezon, kelp greenling, and rock greenling taken in the recreational fishery may not be filleted at sea. Rockfish skin may not be removed when filleting or otherwise dressing rockfish taken in the recreational fishery. "Brown-skinned" rockfish include the following species: brown, calico, copper, gopher, kelp, olive, speckled, squarespot, and yellowtail. "Brown-skinned" rockfish filets may be no smaller than 6.5 inches.

California scorpionfish -

California scorpionfish only occur south of 40°10' N. lat.

Seasons. South of 40°10' N. lat., recreational fishing for California scorpionfish is closed from March 1 through June 30 (i.e., the California scorpionfish season is open during January-February and during July-December). When recreational fishing for California scorpionfish is open, it is permitted only inside the 20-fm (37-m) depth contour (except at Huntington Flats between a line drawn due south from Point Fermin (33°42'30" N. lat.; 118°17'30" W. long.) and a line drawn due west from the Newport South Jetty (33°35'37" N. lat.; 117°52'50" W. long.)) recreational fishing for California scorpionfish may occur from shore to a boundary line approximating 50-fm (91-m) during July-August).

Bag limits, boat limits, hook limits. South of 40°10' N. lat., in times and areas where the recreational season for California scorpionfish is open, and the bag limit is 5 California scorpionfish per day. California scorpionfish do not count against the 10 RCG Complex fish per day limit. Multi-day limits are authorized by a valid permit issued by California and must not exceed the daily limit multiplied by the number of days in the fishing trip.

Size limits. California scorpionfish may be no smaller than 10 inches total length.

Dressing/filleting. California scorpionfish filets may be no smaller than 5 inches.

Lingcod -

South of 40°10' N. lat., recreational fishing for lingcod is closed from January 1 - February 28.

Sanddabs -

South of 40°10' N. lat., recreational fishing for sanddabs is permitted both shoreward and seaward of the 20-fm (37-m) depth contour (i.e., recreational fishing for sanddabs is permitted in all areas south of 40°10' N. lat.). Recreational fishing for sanddabs is permitted seaward of the 20- fm (37-m) depth contour subject to a limit of up to 5-hooks "Number 2" or smaller, which measure 11 mm (0.44 inches) point to shank, and up to 1 lb (45 kg) of weight per line. There is no bag limit, season, or size limit for sanddabs, however, it is prohibited to fillet sanddabs at sea.

Additional Information

A trip limit is the total allowable amount of a groundfish species or species complex, by weight, or by percentage of fish on board, that may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed per vessel from a single fishing trip. A daily trip limit is the maximum amount that may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed per vessel in 24 consecutive hours, starting at 0001 hours (local time). A cumulative trip limit is the maximum amount that may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed per vessel in a specific period of time, without a limit on the number of landing or trips. All limits are coastwide unless otherwise specified and in round weight or round weight equivalents. Percentages apply only to the round weight of legal fish on board unless otherwise specified. One metric ton is 2,204.6 lbs. For the

purposes of the above limits, the following conversions apply. Sablefish: processed weight will be converted to round weight using the States' conversion factor of 1.6. Lingcod: 24 inches total length is equivalent to 19.5 inches headed, processed weight will be converted to round weight using 1.5 for headed-and-gutted lingcod, and 1.1 for gutted lingcod with the head on.

For more information contact: NMFS Northwest Region at 206-526-6140 or visit our website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>, click on "Pacific Coast Groundfish;" NMFS Southwest Region at 562-980-4000; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-249-4628; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 541-867-4741; or the California Department of Fish and Game at 707-441-5797 (Eureka), 510-581-7358 (Belmont), 562-342-7184 (Los Alamitos), 858-546-7167 (La Jolla).

**To receive Pacific Coast Groundfish public notices via e-mail, please e-mail your request to
westcoastgroundfish@noaa.gov**